

but possession unquestioned for a long series of years is evidence of title. If the village community are idle and allow private rights to spring up in the common property, they as a body naturally suffer inconvenience in consequence and the Government cannot help them.

Subject No. 22.

Importation of agricultural laborers.

Summary of discussion.—As regards taking up banjar lands in populated and depopulated villages although the raiyats of one village lead a difficult life for want of sufficient lands for cultivation, they seldom emigrate to another village and take up lands there available. If the Government therefore undertake to send for men from the North Arcot and other Districts and encourage them to take up lands for cultivation, both the Government and the public would be benefitted. In some parts of Mysore the extent of land is small, but the population is large; and in other parts the case is just the reverse, some landholders pay banjar kadayam for several years in the hope of getting men to cultivate the same. An officer should be deputed by Government to fetch raiyats as above and experimentally locate them in the Kadur and Arsikere Taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Government must do nothing in this matter. The evil complained of is far from general and is probably confined to small areas of the Taluks named. The Railway through these Taluks will soon make a difference. It is for private enterprise to offer the necessary inducements for the importation of agricultural labor where necessary.

Subject No. 23.

Free licenses for date leaves.

Summary of discussion.—Agriculturists requiring date leaves for their own *bonâ fide* use are required to take out licenses for cutting the date leaves. This entails considerable inconvenience and hardship and risks of penalty for infringement of the conditions of the license. The system should be abolished and raiyats allowed to take the leaves without a license.

Note.—This subject was also brought forward by Mr. Basappa (Representative from Hiriyur Taluk, Chitaldroog District) who suggested that Patels may be empowered to grant the licenses as it is inconvenient to go to the Amildar for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—The present rules are very liberal. Before they were enacted, raiyats had to pay for date leaves to the Toddy Contractor any price which he thought fit to ask. Now they have only to take out a license which is granted free of charge. It is not every Patel that can be entrusted with the power of granting these licenses. But Deputy Commissioners have been allowed discretion to authorize such subordinates, as they may consider fit, to issue them. It is

obvious that the date trees in Government groves should be protected from rough handling. The restriction of course does not apply to date trees on private land.

Subject No. 24.

Reserve behind
tank and channel
bunds and garden
trees thereon.

Summary of discussion.—The rules in respect of reserving 10 feet from the bunds of Tanks and Nalas may with full effect be brought in force as regards wet and dry land, but if they are brought to effect in respect of garden lands, many valuable areca and cocoanut trees in bearing will be destroyed. The raiyats who have themselves planted such trees, will find it painful to fell them except under very exceptional circumstances. No money can allay the pain. Therefore the rules should be made applicable to cases of future and not to existing gardens.

Dewan's reply.—In reserving a strip of 10 feet, the trees on such strip have never been required to be felled or removed. Indeed it is not worth the while of the Government to acquire such valuable trees by paying the large compensation that will be required. The object is to protect the bund from injury by new cultivation carried too near it. In the case of garden lands it would be feasible to fix a narrower strip than 10 feet, even up to the toe of the bund and when there is an irrigating channel along the toe then up to such channel. When a strip containing trees has unavoidably to be excluded from a holding, it may also be feasible to allow the occupant to put a substantial hedge to mark the line beyond which new cultivation is prohibited, but still allowing him the usufruct of his trees beyond that line should he prefer to keep them. An explanatory circular on the subject will be issued in the Public Works Department.

Subject No. 25.

Classification of
and Seigniorage on
timber.

Summary of discussion.—Several kinds of timber are classified and allowed to be cut and removed on licenses by payment of fee at rates fixed per cart-load. Other kinds are altogether reserved. When more cart-loads of classified wood than what are specified in a license are accidentally cut, the holders are subjected to heavy penalties.

Dewan's reply.—The more valuable kinds of timber have been classified and seigniorage is prescribed only on the classified trees. The classification has given general contentment and the rates of seigniorage are moderate. Seigniorage at one time was calculated on the number of trees to be cut. But on the application of the Malnad raiyats themselves, it is now calculated on the number of cart-loads removed. If more cart-loads than those specified in the license happen to be unwittingly cut, nothing is easier than to apply for and obtain a further fresh license to cover the additional cart-loads. Breach of the conditions of the license must of course be made liable to punishment or Forest interests cannot be protected;